

SJM 3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Girod

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Action Date: 03/31/21
Action: Do adopt.
Vote: 4-1-0-0
Yeas: 4 - Golden, Kennemer, Patterson, Prozanski
Nays: 1 - Heard
Fiscal: No fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Laura Kentnesse, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 3/29, 3/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Urges the U.S. President and Congress to establish and fund a federal system to fully reimburse state and local government property owners and private property owners for damage to real property that results from the spreading of wildfires that originate on federal lands.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Forestland ownership and wildfire metrics
- Financial and human costs of the 2020 Labor Day fires
- Differences in liability and compensatory requirements for private landowners compared to federal government based on where wildfire originates
- Legislative findings interpreted as not commenting on harvest on federal forestlands

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Approximately 60 percent of Oregon forestland is owned by the federal government, with the U.S. Forest Service owning most of those federal lands, followed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service. Many wildfires in Oregon originate on those federal lands, including 15 of the recent 16 megafires.

Senate Joint Memorial 3 would urge the U.S. President and Congress to establish and fund a federal system to fully reimburse state and local government property owners and private property owners for damage to real property that results from the spreading of wildfires that originate on federal lands.